



George
LeMieux
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

E- NEWSLETTER

April 13, 2010

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator. Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [You Tube](#) , [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



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Time for Leadership in Washington

As another April 15 deadline to file federal income tax returns approaches, families are reminded of just how much money we send to Washington for government operations. Last year alone, the federal government took in more than \$2.1 trillion dollars. Unfortunately, it spent over \$3.5 trillion leaving Americans with another \$1.4 trillion in debt. This sort of out-of-control spending is outrageous and must end, which is why I am introducing what I call, the 2007 Solution.

I have introduced a mechanism Congress can use to cap annual federal spending at \$2.7 trillion - the same level the government spent in 2007. By living within those means, the budget would be balanced by 2013, and by 2020 we could cut our national debt in half. Click the video below to hear more about this proposal.



American families are cutting their budgets and the Federal government should be too. Reducing government spending to 2007 levels will take restraint and better government oversight, but it is the right thing to do and would pave the way toward prosperity for future generations.

Upcoming Jobs Events

During these difficult economic times, I am committed to providing as many resources as possible to help Floridians get back on their feet. Our office recently hosted a successful job fair in South Florida where 60 employers and 2,500 people attended. In addition, the office sponsored a virtual job fair for the Orlando region where an estimated 400 to 500 positions were filled. These job fairs have successfully put Floridians in touch with employers, as well as existing programs and groups dedicated to helping job seekers.



Upcoming job events include:

[First Coast Virtual Job Fair](#) - Week of Monday, April 12, 2010

[Panhandle Job Fair](#) - Thursday, April 15, 2010

[Suncoast Job Fair \(Sarasota/Bradenton\)](#) - Friday, April 16, 2010

[Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair](#) - Monday, April 19, 2010

Focus on Future of Space Exploration

Sunday, I attended the Save Our Space rally in Cocoa to stand with thousands of Floridians who believe the United States must remain the world leader in human space exploration. The uncertainty of our space program must be addressed immediately, or we stand to lose jobs, a talented workforce, and our position as a pioneer of new technologies and discoveries that better all of mankind.



The dedicated Floridians who serve NASA have helped our country realize what was only a dream generations ago. The Space Coast's workforce has helped put a man on the moon, execute more than 130 space shuttle missions and send hundreds of satellites into orbit. Yet for all NASA's achievements there is still much to be explored.

NASA needs a specific destination with a clear timeline and the funding to support the endeavor. When President Obama visits the Space Coast later this

human space exploration efforts.

Eglin Air Force Base Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Last week, Eglin Air Force Base celebrated its 75th anniversary. Since its founding in 1935, Eglin Air Force Base has served as a vital component of our nation's military and the economy in Florida's panhandle. Throughout the years, its unique setting has made Eglin an ideal location for training the men and women of the United States Air Force.

I am excited that Eglin will be the primary training base for aviators and those who will maintain the Joint Strike Fighter. This underscores Eglin's prominence as one of the premier Air Force facilities in the nation and ensures that the base will continue to thrive for years to come.

I am proud to recognize all the service men and women who have served at Eglin to keep our nation safe and defend our freedom overseas.

Upcoming Supreme Court Vacancy

Late last week, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his decision to retire. I commend Justice Stevens on his distinguished record of public service. In 2004, I had the privilege of arguing before him on behalf of the State of Florida and was impressed by his knowledge of the law as well as the probity of his questions.

Filling a Supreme Court vacancy is one of the most significant responsibilities of Congress and the President. President Obama will nominate a candidate and then it is the responsibility of the Senate to review the nominee's qualifications to serve on the nation's highest court for a life appointment.

Appointments to the United States Supreme Court have been matters of tremendous importance to American law almost since the inception of the United States. I look forward to participating in a thorough and careful review of the President's nominee to fill this vacancy.

Poland

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama today announced that he has nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer.

as they mourn the death of President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and the many Polish officials and dignitaries killed in a tragic plane crash last week. President Kaczynski was a leader representing strong democratic values and Poland is a strong ally of the United States. The world mourns the loss of this distinguished statesman and all those who perished. Our hearts go out to the Polish people.

Casework Corner

One of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently, a constituent contacted our office concerning Medicare's medical insurance benefits (Part B). The constituent had undergone an emergency kidney transplant but had yet to receive a response from Medicare regarding her claim for costs associated with the procedure.

Given the infirmity of the constituent and the critical need for reimbursement, a caseworker from our office submitted an urgent inquiry to the appropriate federal office.

The agency investigated the claim and determined it was appropriate to reinstate the constituent's Medicare Part B benefits, and did so within seven days.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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